

TRIBUTE TO RUSSELL C. MILLS

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 24, 1995

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to Russell C. Mills, who recently retired from his post as State conservationist for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Mr. Mills, a friend of long standing, is well respected by all who know him. He holds a BS degree in agriculture from Ohio State University and an MPA from the University of Missouri—Columbia. He has served with NRCS since 1957 as a Student Trainee, Soil Conservationist, and District and Area Conservationist in Ohio. He was also the Assistant State Conservationist for Programs and Deputy State Conservationist in Missouri. He is a member of the Soil and Water Conservation Society, the National Association of Conservation Districts, the Missouri Land Improvement Contractors Association, and the Missouri Chapter of the Americans Wildlife Society.

Mr. Mills performed his tasks admirably, earning the Conservation Federation of Missouri's 1989 Professional Conservationist Award, Missouri Conservation Commission's 1990 Conservationist of the Year Award, and Missouri Farm Bureau's 1990 Outstanding Service to Agriculture Award.

As Russell Mills pursues other endeavors, I take this opportunity to express my gratitude and to wish him my sincerest best wishes for the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J.C. WATTS, JR.

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 24, 1995

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, due to an unavoidable prescheduled speaking engagement, I missed votes on Thursday, July 20 and Friday, July 21, 1995. If I had been here I would have voted:

NAY on rollcall vote 547—reduced finance sales of U.S. commodities to developing countries

YEA on rollcall vote 548—prohibited funds appropriated for construction at Beltsville, MD, agriculture research center.

NAY on rollcall vote 549—would have increased funds for Rural Development Performance Partnership Program, cutting salaries for those who assist livestock producers if crop insurance was not purchased.

NAY on rollcall vote 550—cut Commodity Credit Corporation's Market Promotion Program.

NAY on rollcall vote 551—prohibited funds for Market Promotion Program being used for salaries or expenses.

NAY on rollcall vote 552—prohibited CCC funds for use in promotion of alcoholic beverages.

NAY on rollcall vote 553—prohibited bill's funds from being used for salaries or expenses to promote U.S. Mink Export Development Council.

YEA on rollcall vote 554—final passage of H.R. 1976—fiscal year 1996 Agriculture Appropriations Act.

I ask that these be inserted into the RECORD at the appropriate place.

THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
BUDGET EFFICIENCY ACT**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 24, 1995

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation of vital importance to the District of Columbia in rebuilding the financial viability of the District. As my colleagues are well aware, the District is contending with a serious financial crisis. This bill allows the Mayor and the City Council to address some of the causes of the city's budget difficulties that are now outside of their reach with greater efficiency, flexibility, and fairness.

This bill has three provisions that accomplish these purposes. First, the bill gives the Mayor the authority to reduce the appropriation for the judicial branch of the District government, if such a reduction is necessary to balance the District's budget. The Congress previously empowered the District to take similar steps with other independent agencies, including the board of education. However, unlike the case at other agencies, the judicial branch savings may only be directed in the annual appropriation total, not on a line-item basis within the budget itself. Thus, this bill treats the budget of the courts differently in recognition of the separation of powers and the independence of the courts.

Second, the bill enables the District to decouple the rate of compensation for District of Columbia judges from that of Federal judges. No decrease in pay would occur, however. D.C. Superior Court and Court of Appeals judges are local, not Federal judges, and have no Federal jurisdiction. Because of home rule limitations, however, they are appointed by the President—though they are recommended by a panel of local residents. These local judges are paid entirely from the District budget, not from Federal funds. When District employees have taken pay cuts or had level pay for several years and very few have received raises, the judges serving the District have several times had increases in their salaries because their salaries are tied to the pay scale for Federal judges. To remedy this imbalance, the District of Columbia Council will determine the new rate of compensation for judges, as is usually the case with legislatures.

Third, the bill gives the District greater leverage and flexibility to accomplish savings in the negotiation of contracts, such as procurement contracts. Presently, such agreements can be negotiated only on an annual basis. As a result, the District cannot enter into multiyear agreements that often have better terms. Because such contracts require significant commitments they will be evaluated by the District of Columbia Council, and will require a council resolution, two-thirds vote of members present and voting. If for any reason, the funds are not appropriated during a subsequent year of the contract, the contract would be canceled, preventing the District from being bound unreasonably.

These components of the bill act together to strengthen the District's financial position. This bill is noncontroversial. Because it is an es-

sential ingredient of the District's financial discipline and recovery, I ask for support and passage at the earliest time.

SUMMARY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
BUDGET EFFICIENCY ACT

The Congress gave the ability to reduce the budgets of independent agencies, including the Board of Education, if it is required to balance the District budget. However, this power did not include the District courts. This bill expands that power to include the budget of the District courts. This expansion of power does not affect the separation of powers between the executive and legislative branches because it does not give the Mayor power over the judicial salaries, but only the budgets. The Mayor is required to notify the District of Columbia courts of any proposed reductions in their budget.

The bill also amends the Home Rule Act to allow the D.C. Council to establish the rate of compensation for judges in District of Columbia courts. This severs the tie of D.C. judges' salaries to those of federal judges.

Additionally, the bill allows the District to form multiyear contracts for goods and services in areas where funds are appropriated annually. If the funds are not appropriated in some subsequent year of the contract, the contract is cancelled or terminated. Costs of cancellation or termination are paid from sources limited to: appropriations available for the contract's performance; appropriations available for procurement of the acquisition type covered by the contract that is not obligated; funds appropriated for payment of such costs.

Any such contract will require support of the Council by resolution, a two-thirds vote of members present and voting. Further, the contracts will be made pursuant to criteria established by the Council.

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS—DISTRICT OF
COLUMBIA BUDGET EFFICIENCY ACT OF 1994*Section 1. Short title*

Section 1(a) states that this Act may be cited as the "District of Columbia Budget Efficiency Act of 1995".

Section 1(b) amends the relevant provisions of the District of Columbia Self-Government and Governmental Reorganization Act by adding the following:

The District of Columbia Self-Government and Government Reorganization Act provides that whenever in the District of Columbia Multiyear Financial Controls Act is referred to, the reference will be considered to be made to that section of other provision of the District of Columbia Self-Government and Government Reorganization Act.

Section 2. Budgetary control over independent agencies

Section 2(a): Section 2(a) amends Section 47-301(b) of the D.C. Code to include expenditures for District of Columbia Courts and the Board of Education the submission of the District's annual budget by adding the following section:

Section 47-301(b) of the D.C. Code provides that the budget submitted by the Mayor shall include, but is not limited to recommended expenditures at a reasonable level for the forthcoming fiscal year for the Council, the District of Columbia Courts, the Board of Education, the District of Columbia Auditor, the District of Columbia Board of Elections and Ethics, the District of Columbia Judicial Nomination Commission, the Zoning Commission of the District of Columbia, the Public Service Commission, the Armory Board, and the Commission on Judicial Disabilities and Tenure.

Section 2(c): Section 2(c) allows the Mayor to balance the budget by reducing the amount appropriated or otherwise made

available to independent agencies of the District of Columbia to reduce the appropriation or amount if it is determined to be necessary to balance the District's budget. These figures must be submitted to the Council. It further requires that the Mayor notify the District of Columbia courts of any proposed reductions in their budgets.

Section 2(d): Section 2(d) decouples the link between District of Columbia court judges and federal court judges, allowing the District of Columbia Council to establish the rate of compensation for the judges.

Section 3. Contracts extending beyond one year

Section 3(a) allows the District to enter into multiyear contracts for goods and services where funds are appropriated on an annual fiscal year basis. These obligations are valid only for the fiscal year appropriated.

Section 3(b) allows multiyear contracts to be cancelled or terminated if money is not appropriated in subsequent years. In such an event, the cost of cancellation or termination is to be paid from the following: (A) appropriations available for the performance of such contract; (B) appropriations available for procurement of the acquisition type covered by the contract where not otherwise obligated or; (C) funds appropriated for the payments of such costs.

It additionally provides that contracts entered into under this section are invalid unless the Council, by a two-thirds vote of its members present and voting, authorizes such a contract by resolution. Further, contracts under this subsection are made pursuant to criteria established by act of the Council.

**BELLA ABZUG: AN INSPIRATION
TO US ALL**

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 24, 1995

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, on August 26, 1920, 75 years ago, American women finally won their century-long struggle for their constitutional right to vote. That new birth of freedom empowered women to bring into Congress and into public discourse their legislative and political demands to end pervasive discrimination against women and girls, a struggle marked by notable victories and continuing challenges.

As we celebrate the 75th anniversary of women's suffrage, we also celebrate today, July 24, the 75th birthday of one of our Nation's most outstanding woman leaders, Bella S. Abzug. In her all-too-brief 6 years in Congress (1971-1977) as a Democratic Representative from a Manhattan district in New York City, she emerged as a dynamic leader, creative legislator, and a pioneer in broadening legal, economic, social, and political rights for women.

When Bella first ran for office in 1970, there were only nine women among the 435 members of the House of Representatives, including Martha Griffiths, Edith Green, Patsy Mink, and Shirley Chisholm, the first African-American woman elected to Congress. There was only one woman Senator, Margaret Chase Smith of Maine. Bella was the first woman to run and be elected on a women's rights and peace platform. Today, some 20 years later, the numbers have increased significantly—47 women in the House, eight in the Senate—but as Bella would be the first to remind us, American women, who are more than 51 percent of

the population, deserve more than an average of 10.3 percent representation in our Congress.

Bella was elected to the House while United States military intervention in Vietnam, now admitted by Robert McNamara to have been a frightful and costly mistake, was at its height and was drawing mass protests around our country and in Washington. After being officially sworn in as a Member on the House floor on January 21, 1971, Bella took another oath on the Capitol steps, administered by Congresswoman Chisholm before a thousand supporters, in which she pledged "to work for new priorities to heal the domestic wounds of war and to use our country's wealth for life, not death." Then as her first official act in Congress she dropped a resolution into the hopper calling on President Nixon to withdraw all American Armed Forces from Indochina by July 1, 1971.

Bella's concern for the human victims of war made her an adored champion of returning Vietnam veterans, who camped out in her office during the protests they held in the Capitol. Her staff included a fulltime aide who dealt exclusively with veterans health and readjustment problems and she played a leading role in strengthening education benefits for veterans in VA legislation.

Bella also impressed her colleagues as a thoughtful and creative legislator with a firm knowledge of parliamentary rules and precedents, negotiating skills and an awesome capacity for dawn-to-midnight hard work. In her last term in Congress, she served as a member of the whip system operated by House Speaker "Tip" O'Neill, a friend and admirer, and was chosen by her congressional peers in a U.S. News and World Report survey as the "third, most influential" Member of the House. She was described in a 1977 Gallup Poll as 1 of the 20 most influential women in the world.

One of the earliest votes Bella cast was to approve the Equal Rights Amendment. She also introduced a resolution proclaiming August 26 Women's Equality Day, in honor of the suffrage victory. The resolution was approved and signed into law by President Nixon. Nationally and internationally, Bella became known as a champion of women's rights and reproductive freedom and initiated what later became the Congressional Caucus on Women's Issues. She wrote the first law banning discrimination against women in obtaining credit, loans, and mortgages, and introduced precedent-setting bills on comprehensive child care, Social Security for homemakers, abortion rights, and gay rights.

Chairing the House Committee on Public Works and Transportation, she authored legislation bringing more than \$6 billion to New York State in public works, economic development, sewage treatment, mass transit—including sidewalk ramps for the disabled and buses for the elderly—and antirecession assistance. She created the Interstate Transfer Law, which allowed New York City to trade-in highway funds for mass transit improvements.

Bella's remarkable accomplishments as a legislator came as no surprise to those who knew her personal history. Born on July 24, 1920, to Esther and Emanuel Savitsky, Russian Jewish immigrants in the Bronx, Bella has put her prodigious energy, brains, organizing skills, and idealism to work for a better world,

especially for women and victims of racism, prejudice, greed and militarism.

Along the way, she has never accepted the tired view of "that's the way it is, so that's the way it has to be." As a child growing up in the Bronx, she started breaking rules—playing "immies" in the street with the boys—and usually winning—collecting pennies and making speeches in the subways for the Jewish homeland, which later became established as the State of Israel. She attended both public and Hebrew religious schools.

Early on, Bella was recognized as a natural leader: she was elected class president at Walton High School and president of Hunter College's Student Council. One of her fondest memories is of speaking at an assembly addressed by First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt.—They both wore hats.

At Hunter, her last year at law school, she married Martin Abzug, a businessman, World War II veteran and budding novelist who proved his love by typing her schoolwork. Their mutual admiration marriage ended with his death in 1986. They had two daughters, Eve and Liz. Eve is an artist, has worked in city government and holds a master's degree in social work. Liz, active in the women's movement, is an attorney specializing in economic development and women's concerns. In the early years of her career, Bella worked as a lawyer, specializing in civil liberties and labor law. She has been a lifelong advocate of civil rights and a "nut" about the first amendment. In the early 1950's, she defended several Hollywood actors caught up in the McCarthy witch hunt, and also took on the controversial case of Willie McGee, a black Mississippian sentenced to death on a framed-up charge of raping a white woman, with whom he had a long relationship. Although she could not save him from execution, Bella's courage in going to the South to defend him despite threats to her safety was a harbinger of courage displayed by thousands of civil rights activists in the Sixties. During the McGee trial, Bella wasn't even able to get a hotel room and had to sleep in the local bus station, and she was pregnant.

In 1961, Bella helped organize Women Strike for Peace to campaign for a nuclear test ban, going on to lead thousands of women in lobbying expeditions to Congress and the White House. During the Sixties, she came into her own as a rousing public speaker, anti-Vietnam war leader and political strategist, working in the reform Democratic and peace movements and election campaigns.

At age 50, she decided it was time to run for office herself, and run she did, in 1970, with her slogan: "This woman's place is in the House—the House of Representatives." She conducted an unorthodox, attention-getting congressional campaign, mostly in the streets of Greenwich Village, Little Italy, the Lower East Side, and Chelsea, backed up by hundreds of enthusiastic volunteers. She scored an upset primary victory over a longtime Democratic incumbent and went on to win the general election.

While in Congress, throughout the Seventies, Bella was also organizing women. The first planning sessions for the National Women's Political Caucus were held in her office and in 1971 she became its first co-chair. She was chief political strategist for Democratic women in a successful campaign for equal representation—equal division—for women in